

Shona

Multivaluation @ Frankfurt

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1 Language Information

- Source: Fortune (1955)
- Glottlog: <http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/shon1251>
- ISO-identifier: sna
- Speakers:
- Location: Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Geneology: Atlantic-Congo > Volta-Congo > Benue-Congo > Bantoid > Southern Bantoid > Narrow Bantu > East Bantu > Shona > Core Shona > Plateau Shona > Central Shona > Shona

2 Nominal Morphology

There are prefixes that mark plurality.

3 Verbal Morphology

The verb agrees in person and number with the subject. In 3SG, the verb shows agreement with the noun class to which the subject belongs.

4 Conjunction

The coordination conjunctions in Shona are *asi* 'but', *nyamba* 'and yet', *bva* 'but', *hezo/hezi* 'and so, thus', *na* 'and' (it is joined to the word it links), *vuye/uye* 'and'.

- (1) Kuda ndinoda, asi amai vanoda mari caiyo.

?

'As for wanting, I am willing, but mother wants real money. ' [Fortune, 1955, p. 405]

- (2) Iye wakanga akanaka asi mukoma wake wakanga akaipa.
?
'He was good but his elder brother was bad. ' [Fortune, 1955, p. 405]
- (3) Havana kutandwa cete pacikoro asi vakarambidzwa kupinda basa ripi neripi.
?
'Not only were they expelled from school, but they were forbidden to enter any work soever. ' [Fortune, 1955, p. 406]
- (4) vampe vanoda imbga zhinji nyamba havagone kucenga imbga impe cete.
?
'Some want many dogs and yet they cannot keep one dog. ' [Fortune, 1955, p. 406]
- (5) Kare munhu ari parwendo rwake wakawira kumawere; wakafa bva vanhu
?
havazakamuona.

'Long ago a person on his journey fell from a cliff; he died but people did not see him. ' [Fortune, 1955, p. 407]
- (6) Monfanira kuungana pano musi weşonda uyeze munhu oga oga anouya
?
nokudya kwake.

'You must meet here on Sunday and further every person will come with his food. ' [Fortune, 1955, p. 408]
- (7) Hezo kwozosara izi zítatu, citendero, citarisiro necido, asi cikuru-kuru cido.
?
'And so there now remain these three, faith, hope, and charity, but the greatest is charity. ' [Fortune, 1955, p. 409]
- (8) Hezo wani vaşika!
?
'And so they did come! ' [Fortune, 1955, p. 409]
- (9) Sadza naGutu
?
'Sadza and Gutu ' [Fortune, 1955, p. 419]
- (10) Sadza naGutu vauya
?
'Sadza and Gutu have come.' [Fortune, 1955, p. 419]
- (11) Ini nomukadzi wangu tiri kurwara.
?
'My wife and I are ill.' [Fortune, 1955, p. 419]

- (12) bere nehava zaishamjaridzana.
?
'The hyena and the jackal were friendly.' [Fortune, 1955, p. 419]
- (13) ... kuti mhuri yake nezipfuwo zofa nenzara vuye nyota.
?
'... that his family and flocks were dying with hunger and thirst.' [Fortune, 1955, p. 420]
- (14) Mukadzi waTsuro acivona kuwonda kwomurume wake vuyeze acivona
?
kubata kwake...

'Hare's wife seeing the leanness of her husband and seeing his work...' [Fortune, 1955, p. 420]

5 Disjunction

Disjunction is marked by *zimye* 'or'.

- (15) Femendza kuti kunouya shumba zimye mbaḍa.
?
'Sniff out whether there comes a lion or a leopard.' [Fortune, 1955, p. 420]

6 Prepositions

The prefixes *pa*, *ku*, *mu* are of the noun classes 16 - 18.

1. *padyo/patyo* 'nearby'
2. *pakati/mukati* 'at the middle'
3. *panze* 'outside'
4. *paseri/kuseri* 'behind'
5. *pamberi/kumberi* 'in front'
6. *kunze* 'outside'
7. *kusi/pazasi/panyasi/kutsi* 'underneath'
8. *kuzasi* 'down below'
9. *kuhuzuru* 'towards the other side'
10. *munyasi* 'in below'
11. *muhuzuru* 'in above'

12. *na-* 'with, by' (instrumental, conjunction, agency)

13. *sa-* 'like'

References

Fortune, George (1955). *An Analytical Grammar of Shona*. London: Longmans, Green and Co.